

Space available travel for family members

Testing this additional benefit starts April 1

Have you dreamed of skiing in Colorado or going on a romantic weekend trip with your dependent spouse to San Francisco without paying to fly to either location?

If you have, your dream can now come true.

A one-year test program is beginning April 1 to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for dependents traveling within the continental United States.

This allows dependents of active duty, Guard, Reserve, and retired service members to travel within the continental United States accompanied by their dependent spouse.



To register for these flights, active duty service members must show a DD Form 2 (U.S. Armed Forces Identification Card) and a valid leave authorization or evidence of pass status. National Guard and Reserve members must present a DD Form 2 and a DD Form 1853 (Verification of Reserve status for travel eligibility). For retired service members to travel, a DD Form 2, (U.S. Armed Forces Identification Card, Retired) must be shown. Dependents must bring a DOD identification card as well.

Flights to Travis AFB are aboard a KC-10, which generally has 50 seats available.

Peterson AFB flights are aboard a C-130 with only 10 available seats at most.



Because space available passengers travel only after all duty cargo and passengers have been accommodated, people traveling on these flights should make sure they have sufficient funds to complete their journey or return home.

To sign up for a flight, stop by Building 980, Randolph Ave. or call 846-7000.

Leaving from Kirtland AFB

There is a flight to Travis AFB, Fairfield, Calif., the third Friday of each month and returning Sunday. Also, around the first or second Friday of each month a flight departs to Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo., also returning Sunday.

Airmen are warriors

CMSgt. Allan Ludi
HQ/NMANG

Ask a Marine Corps member what they do and the response will be a loud and proud, "I am a Marine."

Ask the same question to an Army troop and you will hear, "I am a Soldier."

Pose the question to a member of the Air Force and you will get "I am a personnelist," "I am an acquisition officer" or "I am a pilot." Furthermore, ask a Marine anything about the mission or history of the Corps and they will spout out the answer without having to think. An Army soldier will do the same thing. What would you say if someone came up to you and asked about Air Force doctrine or history?

Can you articulate the Air Force mission, core values and core competencies? Can you explain the expeditionary aerospace force methodology? Can you describe our proud heritage of innovation and adaptation and discuss examples? What is the difference between these responses?

The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps have a strong identification with heritage and mission of their service.

The Air Force, being the youngest branch, is still struggling with establishing a strong foundation of culture and having its members fully comprehend and understand the value of dominance of the aerospace domain. We must be AIRMEN foremost. AIRMEN are warriors, not technical specialists. While it is important to ground ourselves in the basic skills of our specialties, we need to broaden our perspective and know what aerospace power brings to the fight.

As AIRMEN, we should understand basic Air Force doctrine and how air power is employed as part of a joint warfighting team. One of the methods in which the Air Force is trying to foster this AIRMAN perspective is through education and orientation from day one. Gen Lloyd W. Newton, the former commander of the Air Education Training Command, believes that "military education provides members with the intellectual resources to perform more capably within their career fields and makes them better airmen, supervisors, strategists and Air

Force leaders. An educated AIRMAN brings more to the fight."

Air Force basic training has undergone changes to its curriculum to better educate and train our enlisted force. Several courses have been added to the academics including lessons on core values, Air Force history and the Expeditionary Aerospace Force. Furthermore, the school instituted "Warrior Week," a program that helps orient recruits to a deployment environment and develops an understanding of the EAF concept. All AIRMEN not just our new recruits, should live our core values, be familiar with our core competencies and understand the EAF concept. Educate yourself on the Air Force doctrine. There are lots of resources available to help you in your quest. Search the Internet; www.af.mil is an excellent place to start. Government personnel can also order free books from Air University Press at: www.au.af.mil/au/oas/aupress or venture over to the base library to see what you can find. Next time someone asks you about what you do, will you be prepared?